

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Claims and Specification

Claim 1 has been amended to place it in proper U.S. format, and to more positively recite that the auxiliary air outlet is in an annular wall of the housing that extends between the inlet and the outlet. The location of the auxiliary outlet in the annular wall of the housing can be seen, for example, in original Fig. 4, which shows annular wall 10 and auxiliary outlet 101. The location of the outlet is indicated by the termination of wall 10 before it reaches the bottom of the fan housing.

In addition, the second paragraph on page 1 of the specification has been amended to correct the orphaned “)” symbol.

Because the changes are all either formal in nature or clearly supported by the original specification, it is respectfully submitted that they do not involve “new matter.”

2. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-9 Under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,328,529 (Yamaguchi)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Yamaguchi patent does not disclose or suggest an airflow guiding structure, as claimed, having a main air outlet and an auxiliary air outlet in an annular wall of the fan housing. Instead, the Yamaguchi patent discloses a fan with a single air outlet at either the bottom or side of the fan

While the cross-sectional view of Yamaguchi’s fan, included on page 3 of the Official Action, appears to show a left and right outlet, the left and right sides of the drawing actually show sections of a single annular outlet, corresponding to the left and right sides of outlet 12 of the preferred embodiment illustrated in Figs. 3-10. The views pasted by the Examiner on page

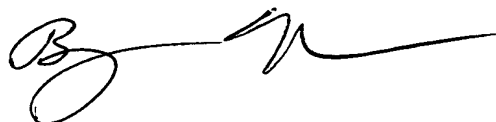
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3 of the Official Action are the side views included in Figs. 3, 4, and 5A of Yamaguchi. These top views correspond to the top view of Fig. 1 and the perspective view of Fig. 2. It can be seen from Figs. 1 and 2 that the so-called "outlet" and "auxiliary outlet" of Figs. 3, 4, and 5A (and other figures) are actually **two sides of the same annular outlet**. Yamaguchi does not disclose an additional auxiliary outlet corresponding to the claimed auxiliary outlet, which is an **annular** wall of the fan housing rather than a part of the main outlet. As a result, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-9 under 35 USC §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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